(Rs. in lakhs)

Department of	General	NE Region	Total
Higher Education	6,83.751	75,599	7,59,350
School Education & Literacy	24,27,880	2,52,120	26,80,000

Assistance to children of poor families for higher education

†1405. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation for 2004-05 which States that children belonging to the poorest families in the country have the lowest participation in higher education;

(b) if so, the percentage of the children of the poorest families residing in urban and rural areas, separately, who are able to afford higher, technical and vocational education; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has made a special provision for providing financial assistance to children of this section for getting higher education and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) 61st round (July2004- June 2005) Report No.517, the proportion of the educated (i.e., those with level of general education secondary and above including diploma/ certificate course) was found to be the lowest in the bottom MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure) class in the urban areas and the same was the case in the two bottom MPCE classes in the rural areas.

(c) The Government has accorded high importance to higher education during the 11th Five Year Plan for which an allocation of Rs.84,943 crore for higher education reflecting a nine fold increase over the 10th Plan has been provided. One of the commitment under the National Common Minimum Programme is to ensure that nobody is denied professional education because he or she is poor.

Government has provided reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to non-creamy layer in admission in all the Central Educational Institutions which will cover several students from poor families. Also, a scheme of Post-Graduate Scholarship for Students belonging to SC/ST/Minorities is initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from deprived section of the Society and to provide them an opportunity to undertake Post Graduate level studies.

Cap on tuition fees

1406.SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide a cap on tuition fees charged by schools, including primary schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the purview of State Governments and it is for them to regulate tuition fees. As per the 'Selected Information on School Education in India 2004-05 & 2005-2006' compiled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, education up to higher secondary stage in Government schools is either free or is charged nominally.

Vacancies in universities

1407.SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey by the University Grants Commission's (UGC) Pay Review Committee (PRC) has revealed that more than 51 per cent of posts are lying vacant at the university level;

(b) if so, the details of posts lying vacant, university-wise and subject-wise;

(c) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant and for how long these posts have been lying vacant; and

(d) what action has been taken to fill these posts as early as possible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to a sample-study of 47 Universities made by the Pay Review Committee for the academic session 2007-08, the number of vacant positions of Professors, Readers and Lecturers in universities responding to the survey is as under:

	Total No. of posts sanctioned	Total No. of posts filled	Total No. of posts vacant	Percentage of vacancy
Professor	2469	1367	1102	44.63
Reader	4506	2194	2312	51.31
Lecturer	9604	4503	5101	53.11
TOTAL	16579	8064	8515	51.36

Statements indicating the list of Central Universities established by'Acts of Parliament, where there are vacancies inspite of promotion under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS), in the grade of Professors, Readers, Lecturers/Senior Lecturers/Selection Grade Lecturers and other teaching staff as on 31.08.2008, are given in the Statement-I, II an III (*See* below) respectively. Central Universities have been advised from time to time to fill up the backlog vacancies, particularly those meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

State Governments have been requested by the Central Government frequently to fill up the vacant positions as such vacancies adversely affect the standards of education. During the State Education Minister's Conference held on 23-24 July, 2008, the States agreed to have a clear plan of action for filling up all vacant positions of faculty.